

7th St. & Arizona Ave. Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund Site January 2006

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is investigating groundwater and soil contamination at the 7th Street and Arizona Avenue Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site. The ADEQ WQARF program, which is also known as state Superfund, investigates and cleans up contaminated groundwater and soil sites throughout the state.

The 7th Street and Arizona Avenue WQARF Site is located in downtown Tucson, and is bounded approximately by 4th Street to the north, 4th Avenue to the east, 8th Street and the railroad to the south, and Ash Avenue to the west.

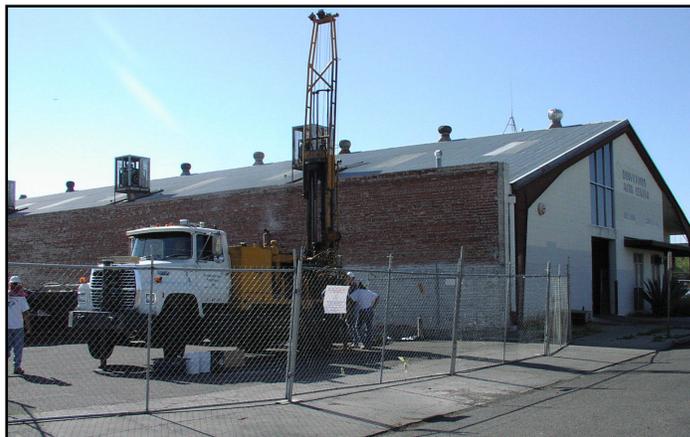
Soils and the perched groundwater aquifer at the site are contaminated with tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and cis-1,2 dichloroethene (cis-1,2 DCE) occurring over regulatory limits. Depth to groundwater is about 65 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the perched aquifer and 173 feet bgs in the regional aquifer.

SITE HISTORY

Dry-cleaning businesses were located on the property at 300 E. 7th Street from approximately 1928 to 1989, when the Oliver's Cleaners building was destroyed by fire. After the building remains were removed, the seven underground storage tanks beneath the building were excavated and removed from the property in 1991. Five of the tanks held dry cleaning solvent and two held heating and waste oil.



Several groundwater monitor wells have been installed at the 7th Street and Arizona Avenue WQARF Site.



Groundwater monitor wells were installed near locations of historic dry cleaning operations.

During tank removal, soil contaminated with total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) was discovered beneath the two heating and waste oil tanks. Sampling of a nearby groundwater production well revealed no detections for TPH, but did reveal the presence of PCE and TCE in the regional aquifer. The TPH release was not considered significant and the issue was closed. Further assessment in March 1997 near the underground storage tanks at the former Oliver's Cleaners indicated a maximum concentration of PCE in the soil at 26,000 micrograms per kilogram. TCE, toluene, and xylenes were also detected in the soil, but at concentrations not likely to result in groundwater impact. The sources of PCE contamination correlate to the locations of the former underground PCE storage tanks.

In January 1992, a taxi company located directly northwest of the former Oliver's Cleaners was characterizing a gasoline release at their property and discovered PCE, TCE, and cis-1,2 DCE in the shallow perched aquifer groundwater monitor wells at levels above regulatory limits.

The 7th Street and Arizona Avenue site was placed on the WQARF Registry in April 2000.

SITE INVESTIGATION/CLEANUP ACTION

The property at 300 E. 7th Street is currently used as a paved parking lot for nearby Fourth Avenue businesses. Soil vapor and groundwater investigations

focusing on characterizing the potential source at the property took place in 2002 and 2003. Results confirmed that a release of PCE, and possibly TCE, had occurred. Also during this investigation, ADEQ completed a groundwater well inventory and found no nearby drinking water wells.

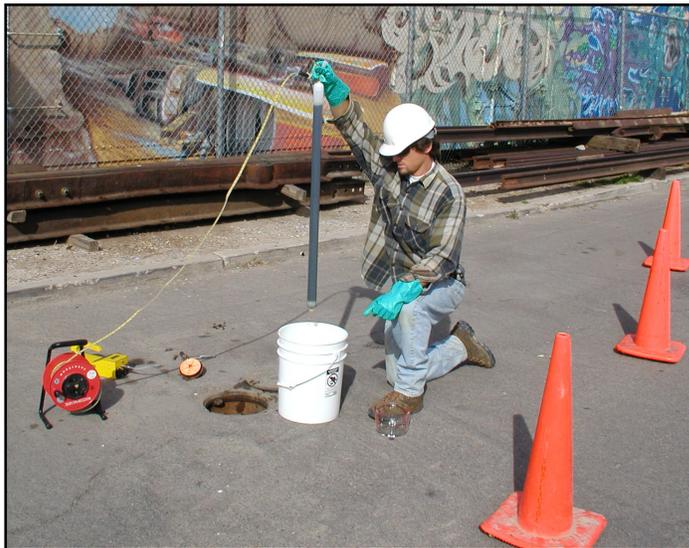
ADEQ regularly monitors the groundwater and soil vapor. The installation of a soil vapor extraction system for source control was recommended as a potential early response action. Construction will begin in Winter 2005.

ADEQ will be conducting additional soil and groundwater investigations during fall 2005 for a potential release of Stoddard solvent, which is a petroleum distillate commonly used for dry cleaning and degreasing.

HEALTH/WATER QUALITY

There are potential risks associated with exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), principally through drinking contaminated groundwater. No one is known to be drinking contaminated water at this site; therefore, no one is known to be exposed or at risk of exposure to the contaminants. Cleanup activities are important to ensure the quality of future drinking water supplies.

ADEQ completed a drinking water well inventory. The nearest known drinking water wells are located one-half to one mile northeast of the site. If you are using a private well near the site area, please contact Sherri Zendri, ADEQ Project Manager.



Periodic sampling takes place at the site to monitor the levels of contaminants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Complete public files regarding the site are located at ADEQ's Phoenix offices. Call 1(800) 234-5677 for information.

For more information on this WQARF site or other WQARF sites in the State of Arizona, please visit the ADEQ Web site at: www.azdeq.gov. In the left-hand column, click on Waste Programs, then on Superfund Programs. Look for the Site Information and Maps Link.

Para información en español sobre este sitio, se puede contactar a Melissa Hayes al (520) 770-3309.



Groundwater samples are taken from wells in the 7th Street and Arizona Avenue WQARF Site.